



## How we are helping you through the COVID-19 pandemic

**We know that this is a challenging time for many of you. That's why we moved quickly to support the community when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit. Since March, we've introduced a range of initiatives to help individuals, local businesses and community groups.**

We introduced a Financial Hardship Policy for ratepayers and turned off parking meters. We began making extra wellbeing checks on our home support residents, and fast-tracked new clients. We waived food registration renewal fees for hospitality businesses, and refunded council fees for cancelled events. We made sure all artists and

contractors affected by the cancellation of the Brunswick Music Festival were paid. We waived fees for sporting clubs and gave rent relief to tenants in council buildings.

We provided \$80,000 in emergency relief and rapid response grants to ensure the most vulnerable in our community are looked after. To find out more, visit [moreland.vic.gov.au/communitygrants](https://moreland.vic.gov.au/communitygrants)

Council's 2020-21 budget further strengthens our targeted support with a \$6.24 million COVID-19 Recovery and Rebuild package. We will also continue to invest \$62.7 million in capital works to create jobs and improve our suburbs. Find out more about our COVID-19 Recovery and Rebuild package on the other side of this leaflet.



### Grants for groceries

Based at Coburg Greek Orthodox Church, charity Our Daily Bread has used its rapid response grant to fast-track delivery of essentials and food to people who need it most – from all backgrounds and faiths.

“At the moment we are distributing 80 bags of groceries a week and the number grows daily,” Our Daily Bread's Sophie Koutalas said in May.

## How we can help with your rates payment

**We know that many people have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are having trouble paying your rates, we have a number of ways to help you.**

### What support can I get?

- \$50 rates waiver for pensioners or Health Care Card holders
- Tailored payment plans including optional deferral of rates payments until 30 June 2021
- Hold on collection of overdue rates and charges between 16 March 2020 and 30 June 2021
- Interest holds on unpaid rates between 16 March 2020 and 30 June 2021

### Who is eligible?

All ratepayers, whether individuals or businesses, who have been impacted financially due to COVID-19 are encouraged to contact us.

### How do I get help?

For more information, or to apply, go to [moreland.vic.gov.au/ratesupport](https://moreland.vic.gov.au/ratesupport) or call **9240 1111**.

# Our \$6.24 million COVID-19 Recovery and Rebuild package

## Community:

**\$4.84 million**



Rates waivers and interest-free deferrals



Youth mental health support



Solar and thermal upgrade grants for vulnerable community members



Legal assistance for international students



Buy Local and other promotional campaigns



Health registration waivers for hospitality businesses



Help for hospitality businesses to adapt their service or business models



Business development grants

## Business:

**\$1.06 million**

## Arts:

**\$0.34 million**



COVID-19 Arts Response grants



Funding for public art projects



Artists in residence programs



Business skills training

## Creating jobs for Morelanders

We are working to hire more than 310 new staff thanks to a \$16.18 million grant from the Victorian State Government. The Working For Victoria scheme is providing much-needed employment for Victorians who have lost work due to COVID-19.

These new employees will increase our workforce by 40% for the duration of the 6-month scheme, providing an opportunity for us to implement new projects, deliver even better services for the community and beautify our city.

Discover what benefits the Working For Victoria program is delivering for Moreland at [moreland.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria](https://moreland.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria)



## Keeping the community informed

**Thanks to the Working For Victoria scheme, we have been able to hire two communications specialists to work with people who have an English barrier or other accessibility needs.**

Delivering targeted health and safety messaging to the Moreland community has never been more important than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accessibility Communications Advisors Jess Jacobson and Ashmina Bhattarai say the scheme has helped them find meaningful work at a time of uncertainty.

“As a Morelander, it’s very satisfying to see the impact of our work in the community,” Ashmina says. “I’m so glad we’re exploring ways to reach more people in the community and include them in the conversation.”

Jess says it’s “great” to be working with Council to ensure the community is as informed as possible.

“Everyone has the right to access reliable information,” she says. “This is particularly important when major restrictions are changing so often.”